

USS TORSK (SS 423) SHIP'S HISTORY FOR 1961

On 22 January 1961, after a holiday leave and upkeep period the USS TORSK (SS 423) departed for the Caribbean and Operation SPRINGBOARD. Invaluable experience and training for all participating units was realized. Recreation trips were made to San Juan, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. On 3 March, TORSK returned to Norfolk where she continued her readiness for war training by conducting varied operations in the local OpArea. On 17 April TORSK departed Norfolk to participate in NEW BROOM X, a joint American, British and Canadian exercise held off the coast of Halifax, Nova Scotia. While making a submerged periscope approach on a surface target TORSK suffered an unfortunate accident in that she was struck by a Navy tanker from astern. Fortunately the damage was centered in the top of the sail and there were no personnel casualties or internal damage sustained. A highlight of the trip was a three day visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The ship returned to Norfolk on 28 April for an upkeep alongside the USS ORION (AS 18) to make temporary repairs to the collision damaged area. On 3 May LCDR J. M. MATHEWS, USN relieved LCDR R. S. LICHTENBERG, USN as the Commanding Officer of the USS TORSK (SS 423). From 24 May to 7 June scheduled local operations, in the VaCapes OpArea, rounded out the underway training for the calendar year 1961. On 29 June after a two week upkeep, a trim dive was made in the local operating area and on 30 June the ship entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia for a six month regular overhaul.

During the entire year TORSK conducted an important training mission in that many men who became qualified in submarines were then further assigned to nuclear power training and fleet ballistic missile submarines.